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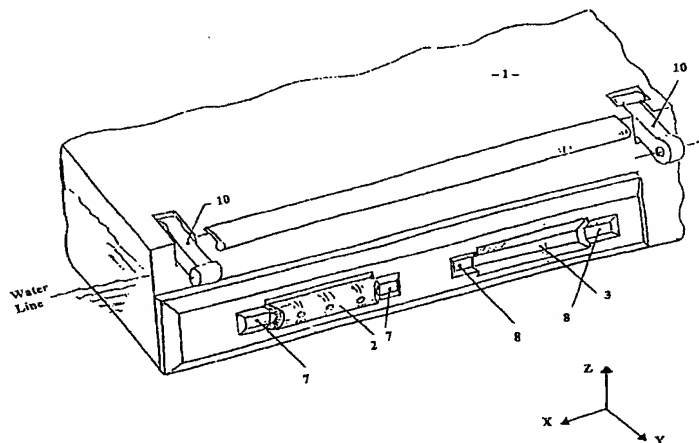
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- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: A SYSTEM FOR CONNECTING BUOYANT MARINE BODIES



(57) Abstract: A system for connecting a two buoyant marine body in a side to side manner, the system comprising first male and female coupling members fixed to the side of a first and second marine body and Second male and female coupling members which are fixed to the side of a first and second marine body. The first male and female coupling members have an opposing relationship and can be moved from an unengaged condition to a. fully engaged condition by the movement of the first and second floating marine bodies towards each other in a first horizontal direction. The freedom of movement between the male coupling and the female coupling members, at least in the vertical direction, is decreased as they become vertically aligned. Second male and female coupling members will create a rigid coupling to prevent relative movement in at least the vertical direction, as the freedom of movement between the first male and female coupling members is or is proximate to being vertically aligned. The first male coupling member is of a resiliently flexible nature and can take any impact loading between the two bodies. Securing means is included to attach the buoyant marine bodies together in a horizontal direction.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/SG 03/00178-0

## CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC<sup>7</sup>: B63B 35/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC<sup>7</sup>: B63B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPI, EPODOC, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages     | Relevant to claim No. |
|----------|--|-----------------------|
| A        | JP 56 005292 A (TAISEI CORP) 20 January 1981 (20.01.81)<br><i>figures 3-11.</i>        | 1-<br>3,19,25,26,30   |
| A        | JP 02 106487 A (MIYACHI IRON WORKS) 18 April 1990<br>(18.04.90)<br><i>figures 1-8.</i> | 1-<br>3,19,25,26,30   |
| A        | JP 04 185592 A (FUDO CONSTRUCTION CO) 2 July 1992<br>(02.07.92)<br><i>figures 1-6.</i> | 1,19,25,30            |
| A        | US 3799100 A (MARRINER) 26 March 1974 (26.03.74)<br><i>abstract, figures.</i>          | 1,19,24,30            |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

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„&“ document member of the same patent family

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| Patent document cited<br>in search report |   |                | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s) |   |         | Publication<br>date |
|---|---|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---|---------|---------------------|
| JP  | A | 2106487A<br>2  |                     | none                       |   |         |                     |
| JP  | A | 4185592A<br>2  |                     | none                       |   |         |                     |
| JP  | A | 56005292<br>A2 |                     | none                       |   |         |                     |
| US  | A | 3799100        | 1974-03-26          | US                         | A | 3822667 | 1974-07-09          |
|   |   |                |                     | US                         | A | 3818854 | 1974-06-25          |